

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Please supplement the Amendment of October 25, 2006, filed in response to the Final Office Action of September 22, 2006, with the present Supplemental Amendment. Along with this Supplemental Amendment, replacement drawings sheets are being filed to include new Figures 15C and 15D for the reasons discussed below. The Applicants have added new Figures 15C and 15D to help illustrate features already included in the specification and the claims, as suggested by the Examiner, and thus no new matter has been added.

I. DRAWING OBJECTIONS

In the prior Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to show several features recited in the claims. Specifically, the objections were directed to claimed features of the fastener being non-metallic (Claim 51), being plastic (Claim 52), and being rubber (Claim 52). New Figures 15C and 15D have been added to illustrate plastic (i.e., synthetic) fasteners corresponding, notwithstanding material, to Figures 15A and 15B, respectively. While industry standards permit light parallel hatch marks to generically illustrate the material of an object, it is now understood that such typically generic hatch marks are interpreted as indicating a metal material under USPTO standards. Accordingly, these new figures are added to eliminate any possible confusion on this point.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and request a Notice of Allowability for the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney of Record if such would expedite the prosecution of the present Application. The Applicants note that the two-month deadline for filing a response to the

Final Office Action is November 22, 2006; thus, this Amendment is timely and within the two-month shortened period for response under M.P.E.P. 706.07(f). Although no fees are believed due with the present Amendment, if it is determined that fees are due, please charge Deposit Account No. 13-0480, referencing the Attorney Docket Number specified herein.

Respectfully submitted,

/James H. Ortega/

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